The State Mycologist and the work done by him.

6. MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is a Mycologist in the State service and what work he is doing:

(*b*) what remedial measures he has found out for the cure of the cocoanut palm disease; and

(*c*) whether the area affected by the cocoanut palm disease has extended during the last five years, the taluks which are badly affected, and the steps that are being taken to prevent the spread of this disease?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: (*a*) There is a Mycologist attached to the Department of Agriculture and he is investigating the fungus diseases of cultivated crops and suggesting suitable preventive and remedial measures for their control.

(*b*) He has found out by experiments that the diseases of the cocoanut palm could be brought under control by careful cultivation and manuring and by the application of fungicides like lime, copper sulphate and iron sulphate.

(*c*) There is no appreciable increase in the area affected by the diseases of the cocoanut palm during the past five years. The taluks which are badly affected are Karunagapalli, Karthikapalli, Mavelikara, Ambalapuzha, Tiruvalla, Changanachery and Minachil. The experiments conducted by the department have shown that the palms affected by the disease will improve by careful cultivation and judicious application of manures and fungicides. These methods are being demonstrated at important centres on lands belonging to the ryots.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know the date or the year in which this disease set foot in our soil?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: I claim notice.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know which was the area that was first affected by this disease?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: Karunagapalli.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know whether any injury would be caused to human beings by using the cocoanut of diseased trees?

Mr. T. C. THOMMEN: I have no information.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know whether the quality of cocoanut has in any way deteriorated on account of this disease?

Mr. T. C. THOMMEN: I have no information.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know whether the yield of cocoanut trees in affected areas has in any way been increased or decreased?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: The yield has decreased a little.

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MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: What does the member mean by a little?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: Less than it was before.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know what is the percentage of decrease?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: I claim notice.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether the member is aware of the existence of a farm at Oachira?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: Yes.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: May I know whether the Government have received any report about the demonstrations in the Oachira farm?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: The reports are published.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: May I know whether all the cocoanut trees in that area are affected?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: Not all.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Then how many?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: I cannot say.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: What is the basis of the information that the whole area is not affected?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: That is the information of Government from the reports of the department.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: When did the member get that information?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: The exact date cannot be stated now.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: May I know whether he is aware of the existence of a farm at Chettiyarkulam, on the western side of the sandy tract?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: Yes.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: May I know whether Government are sanctioning some amount for maintaining that experimental farm?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: I have no information.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Is it a fact that no experimental farm started in Travancore has not proved to be of value?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: No.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Is the member aware that the experimental farm started at the cost of Government is not proving useful to the public?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: No, they are useful.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Will the member cite one instance?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: The farm at Oachira is doing useful work.

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MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: How?

MR T. C. THOMMEN: The results of demonstrations are published in the Gazette?

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Sir, the member was saying that experimental farms are established in Travancore to demonstrate that cocoanut palm disease can be prevented. My assertion is that it is not.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Sir, I rise to a point of order?

PRESIDENT: He is addressing the Chair.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: I am just putting a question whether he is aware of any experimental farm which yields the desired effect?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: The experimental farms are doing useful work.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: My question is whether there is a single farm in the whole State where demonstration has proved useful?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: I have answered that question.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Has the Government received any report from the Mycologist stating that, as a result of investigation, the demonstration has been useful?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN The report is being printed.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: How long is it since the Mycologist has been appointed in the State?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: More than 12 years.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: May I know whether Government have received any report from the Mycologist during these years?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: Yes.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: The result of that report, please?

PRESIDENT: Your question has been answered.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: May I know, the nature of remedial measures adopted to combat the cocoanut pest?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN: I am not competent to speak in detail about the scientific measures adopted by the Mycologist. He has advised careful cultivation and scientific manuring.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Is it a fact that the owners of cocoanut trees are asked to cut away the trees to avoid cocoanut pest?

MR T. C. THOMMEN: Sometimes, it may be necessary to do that.

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MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI (*Quilon* cum *Kurunagapalli*) : തെങ്ങുകൾക്കു ഈ സുഖക്കേടു തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടു എത്ര കാലമായി എന്നു പറയാമോ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN : നല്ല നിശ്ചയമില്ല.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI : പൊതുവെയുള്ള കേരവൃക്ഷങ്ങളുടെ എത്രയിലൊരംശത്തിനു ഈ സുഖക്കേടു ബാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാമോ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN : ചില താലൂക്കുകളിലൊക്കെയുണ്ട്.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI : ആ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ എത്ര ഏക്കറിൽ ഇതു ബാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാമോ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN : നിശ്ചയമില്ല.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: (*Mavelikara and Karikapalli* cum *Kunnattur*) : Is the work of the Mycologist merely experimental and scientific and so not capable of any spectacular effect ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN : Attempts are made to root out the evil.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI : Has any remedy been found in any part of the world to root out the cocoanut pest ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN : Remedial measures are being found out.

Representations from the ryots of Nanjinad re *imposition of enhanced tax.*

7. MR. V. S. ARUMUKHAM PILLAI : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have received representations from the ryots of Nanjinad, complaining about exaction of tax in excess of what is legitimately due from them on account of an error committed by the Government in the process of adjusting the *para* measurement in terms of Nanjinad *kotta* , and

(*b*) the action taken by them in this matter ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Acting Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) . (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

MR. V. S. ARUMUKHAM PILLAI : May I know how long has it been under the consideration of Government ?

MR. K. GEORGE : The last report on the subject was received by Government on the 15th Edavam. Since then, it is under due consideration.

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